

Three Cantors fill St. Paul's with Christmas sounds- Page 14

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Times

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AWAY IN A MANGER

Becky Stephenson, left, and John Goulding playing Mary and Joseph during a live nativity scene in front of Ridgeway Community Church as part of the 17th annual Spirit of Christmas celebration in downtown Ridgeway. The two day event, taking place last Friday and Saturday involved carolling, a candlelight stroll and much more.

Regional approval kicks speedway into high gear

Kris Duff
Times Staff

The Canadian Motor Speedway project finished two very important laps in its long race to the finish line this week.

Town council voted unanimously on Monday in favour of amending its official plan to approve the project footprint in front of a packed crowd at the Leisureplex banquet hall, after a record setting 54 delegations were made by people who either support or oppose the first-class motor-speedway.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Niagara Region's planning committee voted in favour of an application to amend its policy plan, moving the proposed multi-million dollar auto-

racing facility further in the long approval process. There are plans for a 75,000 square-foot commercial and retail space while McMaster University hopes to build a research and development centre at the site.

The Jeff Gordon affiliated speedway could include a one-mile oval course and 2.5 mile road course built on 820 acres of land adjacent to the QEW between Bowen and Gilmore Roads.

Before the report was approved, the Region's director of development services Peter Colosimo gave an oral presentation about the plan amendment, explaining there is still an extensive list of pending approvals with the project.

continued on page 3

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SINGING A HOLIDAY TUNE

Bertie Public School students Sarah Tripp, Quynn Gilmour and Adam Tripp singing Christmas carols in front of Pacific Productions during last Friday's kick off to the 17th annual Spirit of Christmas celebration.



A GIFT FOR MOM AND DAD

St Paul's Anglican Church member Linda Dowsett handing over a gift to six-year-old Robert Sykes which he picked out for his parents at the annual St. Nick's shopping day last Saturday, held annually by the local church. About 150 children started their Christmas shopping with the help of many volunteers.



Kathleen E. Fairgrieve
1962-2009

Thank You

Project's finish line still many laps away

continued from page 1

The Region has to endorse the Town of Fort Erie's amendment to its official plan and provincial agencies like the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) still need to be satisfied with what is proposed.

"We will be discussing that further but so far we feel we're on track with their support," said Colosimo.

The project also needs to go through a process of decisions made by different levels of government when the time comes for addressing site plan agreements and zoning.

"That has to be approved in order to bring the whole project together from a land use and planning perspective," said Colosimo.

Another obstacle that could be thrown onto the track is an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board which can be made by any resident who opposes the speedway.

Bruce White, an opponent to the proposal and member of the Citizens Against Racing Speedway (CARS) said this is a measure he and other members of the group will likely be taking, while he

spoke at the municipal council meeting on Monday.

At Wednesday's regional meeting, CARS chair Sandy Vant voiced her concerns on behalf of the opposition, saying the idea of growth is something they support but not a project of this magnitude. "These people are not blind to the need for the town to develop and move forward...but at what cost?" she asked.

Representing the Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce at both meetings was Stephen Passero. He feels this is an opportunity that will benefit all of Greater Fort Erie and the entire region at the same time.

"Wouldn't it be nice to be number one in something other than unemployment or be shown nationally on television for something other than the first snow storm?" asked Passero.

One stipulation in the report he agrees with is that the commercial development of the proposed facility should not have a negative impact on the financial viability of core designated commercial lands within Fort Erie and that it must be related to the speedway in some way.

"As tremendous as the potential is for this development, we do not

endorse the creation of a self-sustaining city within our town," said Passero in both his speeches.

After the regional report was supported, Jay Mason, one of the Canadian Motor Speedway's proponents said this is just the first of many laps in the race to the finish line.

He said the two approvals given this week are "a clear message" that the project is being supported up until this point and is confident any concerns raised by the MNR or the MOE can be addressed.

"If there's a question from any agency, we need to answer them," said Mason.

Shirley Cordiner, Fort Erie regional councillor said this indicates the support to move forward with investigating and compiling all the information that needs to be made available before endorsing the project entirely. She agrees there are many more stages in the process and feels denying this proposal at such an early stage would affect other future developments.

"If we can't support a proposal of this magnitude, nobody is going to come back to Fort Erie," she said.



Fort Erie resident Dan General showing his support for the Canadian Motor Speedway at Monday's council-in-committee meeting at the Leisureplex banquet hall while others show their opposition behind him. To read comments from council, go to page four.

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A WARM TREE

Nelly Weaver, a page at the Fort Erie Public Library, putting some final touches on a mitten tree at the Stevensville branch. Mittens were generously donated by the community.

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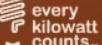
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KRIS DUHÉ
Times Staff

At Monday's council-in-committee meeting, Ward 5 Coun. Martha Lockwood said her family's relocation to Fort Erie in the early 1970's is an example of why she feels the Canadian Motor Speedway is a good opportunity for Fort Erie.

She lived very close to the Fort Erie Racetrack and Horton Steel, saying the sound of those two sites in operation aren't anywhere near what a speedway could potentially cause, but it did provide assurance that there was opportunity around town.

"To me, those were signs of life and activity," said Lockwood, referring to some residents' concerns about noise.

Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular feels this is an opportunity the Town could not pass on. He feels the applicants will do everything they can to assure the concerns of residents about environmental impacts noise and pollution will be mitigated through the many stages that still need to take place, such as approvals from the Niagara Region, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and provincial agencies like the ministry of natural resources and the ministry of environment.

"I think we have a lot of well-edu-

cated people who will take everything into consideration," said Shular.

Bob Steckley, councillor for Ward 3 also endorsed the project with positive comments. He started by commanding everyone on both sides of the issue who had the courage to get up and speak in front of a large crowd in a public forum. He said he is both moved by the amount of people in opposition who claim the speedway is just a way for the investors, Emirates Consulting, to turn a profit.

"I don't know the last time there was a businessman out there who didn't expect to make money," said Steckley.

He said people should not fault someone who is interested in setting up shop in the community and that "profit is not a dirty word."

He also said he is concerned by those who claim the speedway will be approved through a "back door" process with very little public consultation or attention paid to environmental and noise issues.

"A development of this size will never be able to get away with that. They're not too big of a microcosm," said Steckley.

Ward 4 Coun. Anne-Marie Noyes echoed Steckley's comments saying the project will provide many economic and employment benefits, especially in a community with an

unemployment rate as high as Fort Erie's, where so many people are dependent on social services.

"The economic impact of this development is very important. It will bring jobs and education while improving the skill-set of our residents," said Noyes.

Considering there are still several areas that need to be given from different agencies and ministries, Noyes said if concerns raised by residents are projected to have an overall impact by these governing bodies they will be addressed in the process.

"It's daunting how many questions

need to be answered. It's far from a

done deal but it does have to move forward so we can get to a conclusion," said Noyes.

Ward 1 Coun. and acting mayor Sandy Annunziata also commended all the delegates at the meeting, which lasted almost seven hours. He continued by saying there are still many laps to go on the speedway project and expects the applicants will continue to work in a transparent manner, addressing the many concerns people have with the project.

"Apprising this community does not remove responsibility of the proponents to provide answers and to provide the necessary requirements to go forward and deem this a responsible development," said Annunziata.

Traffic stop leads to drug charges

On Thursday, Dec. 3rd a uniformed officer with the Niagara Regional Police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on Bertie Street. As the officer spoke to the motorist, over seven grams of crack-cocaine was discovered inside his vehicle. An undisclosed amount of

currency was seized along with drug paraphernalia. A 26-year-old male has been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of proceeds obtained by crime. He was held in custody, pending a bail hearing held in provincial court last Friday.

Suspicious vehicle leads to arrest

On Thursday, at 2 a.m., uniformed officers from the Niagara Regional Police Service No. 5 district, responded to a 911 call on Point Abino Road. While the officers were in the area, they observed a suspicious vehicle leave a neighbouring property that appeared to be vacant. The vehicle was stopped

by police and the lone male was questioned and arrested. Further investigation revealed that the male had entered a locked garage on the property and he had stolen property in his vehicle, which was recovered by police. A 37-year-old male is charged with break, enter and theft.

Summer resident catches thief in the act

On Friday, Dec. 4th at about 9 a.m., a 45-year-old New York state resident was checking his summer cottage on Barrie Street in Ridgeway. Upon arrival, he noticed an unmarked pickup truck in the driveway. After entering his summer home, he noticed that a screen door had been cut and a window forced open, allowing entry into the premises. He then saw a heavy-set male run from the

cottage, get in his vehicle and flee the area. The seasonal resident notified the Niagara Regional Police, explaining that the screen door and window were missing from the home. The accused, a 30-year-old male was apprehended a short distance away at his own residence and arrested by police. He is being charged with break and enter, theft and breach of probation.



DO YOU REMEMBER?

There were no responses for last week's photo, so back in the files it will go. This week's photo shows a merry band of gentlemen. We have three clues: the name Ken Lonsbury is on the back, the man in the hat's t-shirt reads 'Big Mike's Hitching Post' and Dec. 1981 is stamped on the back. If anyone knows these men and what those trophies were for please call the Museum at 894-5322 or send an email to museum@forterie.on.ca.

No tolls at Peace Bridge on Christmas Day

The Peace Bridge Authority will not be charging a toll for cross border travellers on Christmas Day. The toll free period will be in effect starting at 12 a.m. on Christmas morning. "By not charging tolls on Christmas, we're

able to spread some holiday cheer and give as many of our employees as possible the opportunity to spend the day with their families," said Anthony Annunziata, the PBA's chairman.

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Editorial

Focus on positive things during Christmas season

Changing someone's outlook on life is never an easy task, but at Christmas time...everyone should be thankful for what they have, whether it is a large or small amount.

Being surrounded by friends and family, visiting people you haven't seen since last year's holiday celebrations should be the most important things on people's minds this time of year...not complaining about the weather or a recent decision made by the Town of Fort Erie.

There are so many other countries dealing with much more important issues like natural disasters and poverty.

They have it much worse than we do...that's for sure.

This holiday season, people really need to sit back and think about what they are thankful to them and do their best not to focus on the negative if possible.

Instead of dwelling on the negative impact some residents feel the Canadian Motor Speedway will have on the area...try to think about the positive.

Rather than formulating a plan to challenge the Town's budget process, think about the Olympic Torch Relay and how historic of an event this will be for Fort Erie when the symbolic flame passes through town.

The positive definitely outweighs the negative and it would be nice if more people found the validity in this statement.

Editor still recovering from Monday's council meeting

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Kris
Dube



I've been covering town council meetings for about two years and I can easily say I've never seen anything like that before.

At Monday's council-in-committee meeting, over 400 people stood in the Leisureplex ballroom to witness a local politician make a crucial decision that would allow the Canadian Motor Speedway project to move forward. Most of them didn't actually stay until council discussed the idea of amending its official plan because most people probably had to work in the morning.

The meeting lasted almost seven hours which is just about what I expected. Before last week's paper went to print, The Times reported that 25 people had signed up to speak at the meeting in favour or against council moving ahead with approving the report on the table.

By 3 p.m. on Monday that number skyrocketed to 54.

"It's definitely a record," town clerk Carolyn Kett told me this week.

I've given my thoughts on the project before and said that as a life-long resident of Fort Erie I fully support it. That hasn't changed at all and that's not really what I want to explain here.

There were a lot of people at Monday's meeting who I believe were under the impression that if council decided to approve the report, which it did unanimously, the Canadian Motor Speedway would be built almost immediately without any more questions asked.

That is not the case by any stretch of the imagination.

Several provincial agencies need to ask questions, the Region needs to approve the Town's official plan amendment, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority needs to be satisfied...this list could go on as long as the entire process might take.

Another question I asked myself throughout most of the historic meeting was "how am I going to quote all these people?"

I literally filled the remaining half of a notepad, ran out of batteries on my digital recorder and had a pen run dry on me. I'm not complaining because it was quite the experience.

AROUND TOWN



Sisters Kaidence and Dania Maracle going over their Christmas wish list with Santa Claus at last Saturday's Breakfast with Santa at Crystal Beach Public School.

There were so many good arguments on both sides of the issue, which is why I feel safe saying this could be one of the longest car-rides you've been on in a really long time. So, buckle up.

If you would like to leave me feedback, call me at (905) 871-3100 ext. 207 or email me at editorial@forterietimes.com.

The Times Letters Policy

The Times welcomes letters to the editor, commenting on local issues. Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten, and should be no longer than 200 words. Send them to Letters to the Editor, *The Times*, 1-450 Garrison Rd., Fort Erie, ON, L2A 1N2. Letters can also be faxed to 905-871-5243, or emailed to editorial@forterietimes.com.

Letters must include the author's name, address and a daytime telephone number for verification purposes. Unsigned or anonymous letters will not be published. *The Times* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and for reasons of libel and good taste. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Times*, its staff or management.

Opinion

Molinaro's plan for Bay Beach offers 'positive possibilities' for Greater Fort Erie

Dear Editor,

I have realized for a long time the untapped potential of Crystal Beach. I have watched businesses come and go. I have driven up and down Erie Road a few times a week at various time of day and at various times of the year, seeing little if any action. I have sat in meetings and presentations and I hear the same possibilities suggested by those who are attempting to see and advise on the Bay Beach site objectively. At the end of all this, I see a current plan by the Molinaro Group that offers positive possibilities for this site in Crystal Beach.

I am impressed with the progressive attitude and visionary directive of our council in offering what they believe is a good thing for Crystal Beach and an asset to Fort Erie.

I am anticipating a progressive and re-created lakeside development that will enhance a beach that for too long has been an unsightly part of our community.

I am excited because the finished product will prove to everyone that we have valued and developed potentially one of the great-

est assets we have in the Greater Fort Erie community.

Some major needs for The Crystal Beach Gateway Project that will have been dealt with are parking, perhaps even more than we need.

More residents for almost all year round, so what if they go south for part of the year? Wouldn't we all like to do that? A beach open to the public will be retained and there will be commitment to public access to the beach. Beautiful and new beach amenities and washrooms are also part of the plan along with a public pavilion for community use.

The whole project will be enhanced by landscaping covering over 75 per cent of the property. And maybe even some flowers.

This will provide a "longed-for" and compelling view of the lake.

This is what I would like to see in Crystal Beach and the Molinaro Group is the financial resource to make this happen.

Winnie Swain
Crystal Beach

The TIMES Asks



Catherine McLoughlin



Richard Snyder



Richard Birley



Robert Parker

"I've been decorating, wrapping gifts and sending cards. All I have left to do is bake some goods."

"I've bought all my gifts, done a lot of decorating and will continue to drink lots of Christmas cheer."

"I'll be spending time with my family and my grandchildren."

"I've been making chocolate-covered pretzels that I donate to local organizations like the YMCA."

What do you think?

E-mail: editorial@forterietimes.com or call 905-871-3100, ext. 207

St. Luke's thankful for community support

Dear Editor,

What I love about Greater Fort Erie is its generosity of spirit. St. Luke's Lutheran Church has had a difficult year since our church building down. Yet, every time we get discouraged someone else does something wonderful to give us hope. It makes us feel that the young people of Niagara Christian Community of Schools chose us to be the beneficiary of their Christmas canata. Everyone involved practised for countless hours under the direction of Mrs. Anne Landey to make the event a success.

Rev. Sally Anne Longfellow and the congregation of People's Memorial United Church provided us a home for the second performance. Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High Schools lent us equipment for the night and the ladies from the St. Paul's Anglican choir joined the choir at St. Luke's to create the adult component. Even the first snow of the season didn't stop people from coming out in support. Thank you all for living the spirit of Christmas.

Maria Featherston
St. Luke's Lutheran Church chairperson



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Traffic By-law No. 2000-89, Section 205 provides that "No person shall park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked" on any street in Town "between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. on any day during the months of November, December, January, February and March.". The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense, if found in violation of the by-law.

Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216(Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Jack Cox).

Carolyn J. Kett, A.M.C.T., Town Clerk, Town of Fort Erie

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE FORT ERIE SKATEPARK

The Town of Fort Erie and Fort Erie Skatepark Committee invite you to attend a Public Open House regarding the proposed design of the Fort Erie Skatepark, on

Wednesday December 16, 2009
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Town Hall Atrium
1 Municipal Centre Drive

In the summer of 2009, the Town secured Federal and Provincial Recreation Infrastructure Funding necessary to proceed with construction of the Fort Erie Skatepark at the Town Hall/Lesisureplex Complex. The design of the skatepark is now underway, by LANLINE SPORT and renowned skatepark designer Jim Barnum of Spectrum Skatepark Creations. The design of the skatepark will be based upon ideas generated by Fort Erie youth, at a Youth Design Workshop conducted in early November 2009. The skatepark is scheduled to be constructed by the late fall of 2010.

Concepts for the Skatepark will be presented at the Public Open House. Your input is important and will help determine how this park serves the future needs of the community. Town staff and the project consultant will be in attendance to discuss the park concepts and to answer any questions.

For more information contact Sigrun Hansen, Manager of Parks and Open Space Development at 905 871-1600 ext. 2506 or shansen@forterie.on.ca.

(3)



**OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY
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Monday, December 21st, 2009

Show your Community Spirit and welcome the Olympic Torch to Fort Erie!!!

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Fort Erie

An award winning community with unique natural beauty, Fort Erie offers varied facilities for education and recreation along the shores of Lake Erie and the Niagara River

Complex continuing care beds being removed from Douglas Memorial next year

KRIS DUBE
Times Staff

The Niagara Health System (NHS) is moving ahead with a part of its hospital improvement plan by removing eight complex-continuing care beds from the Douglas Memorial urgent care centre site.

By late April or May of 2010 the Douglas site will scale down to 46 beds once the change is implemented.

The NHS's health program director for transitional care services Wendy Robb says continuing care has changed significantly over the last eight to ten years and in the past many patients spent the rest of their life there after being admitted. Now, there are far more options with aging-at-home strategies, home care enhancements and health services available in the community.

"They have much more care that they can provide in the community now than they ever have in the past," said Robb.

"It's not a permanent destination anymore," she said.

She couldn't determine how if

"They have much more care that they can provide in the community now than they ever have in the past."

-NHS's health program director for transitional care Wendy Robb

this would result in any layoffs, saying the NHS's human resources department is meeting with different unions to work out a solution.

There will re-deployment opportunities for some staff and others may decide to retire but giving a figure of how many people could potentially be impacted was something she could not do at this point, saying more information will available in about two weeks.

"We're trying to minimize and have no layoffs," she said.

The NHS's Port Colborne and Welland sites will also undergo the same transition, with 10 beds being removed.



KINETTES DONATE TO COPE

The Kinette Club of Fort Erie recently donated almost \$1,900 to Community Outreach Program Erie to help the non-profit organization get through the holiday season. From left are COPE's Mandy Crosby, followed by Kinette members Eileen George, Kelly Kendrick, Louise Albert, Yvonne Launder and Debbie Woehl.

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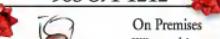
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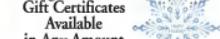
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Afshin Keyvoni, Connie Engels, Dallas Marriott and Peter Koutoulakis gather at the Old Bank Bistro to start planning for a Jan. 13 charity dinner being put on by Fort Erie Secondary School. Funds will go towards helping Marriott take part in a Habitat for Humanity build in Vietnam and towards Community Outreach Program Erie.

Charity dinner helping student travel to Vietnam with Habitat for Humanity

MATT DAY
Times Staff

When Dallas Marriott heard about the opportunity of a lifetime, he wasted no time in letting it be known that this was something he wanted to do.

"Before I could even finish asking the class if anyone was interested, he was halfway up the aisle coming to get his application," said Fort Erie Secondary School's co-operative education coordinator Connie Engels.

Marriott, a Grade 12 student at the school, will be heading to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam at the end of June to take part in a District School Board of Niagara International (DSBNI) project in coordination with Habitat for Humanity. He was chosen as one of 15 stu-

dents throughout the board who will be taking part in the 10-day, hands-build halfway across the world.

"I'm excited about being chosen. Actually, overall, because there are going to be so many memories I will be able to hold onto. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity."

He said he feels he will be a good fit in the build because he likes to work with his hands.

"I'm dedicated and a hard worker and I feel if I'm able to work with my hands that it will be beneficial."

Marriott has to raise \$3,500 in order to cover his expenses for the trip. He plans on doing that with the help from the school and community partners.

FESS has already pledged to help raise money to sell chocolate bars and t-shirts and is fully supporting

Marriott's endeavour ahead of him.

"I think it proves you can come from a small town high school and still have the opportunity to do extraordinary things," said Engels.

"To go to a foreign country, supporting those who need it and doing charity work for a reputable organization is going to be something he won't forget."

His departure date, set for June 29, is his birthday and his graduation day. He said he doesn't mind not being at home for both, though.

The school is also planning a charity dinner at the Old Bank Bistro which in turn will help Afshin Keyvoni's hospitality program students.

With owner Peter Koutoulakis' permission, the students who currently run and operate the high school's Pizzeria Grande Restaurant on Wednesday nights will be taking over the kitchen on Jan. 13 to help raise funds for the trip and raise community awareness for the program.

"It's a win-win situation for everybody," said Engels. "It allows those students to gain experience in a professional environment, it shows Peter's commitment in helping the community and hopefully it will raise a lot of money for Dallas' trip."

So far, Marriott has raised \$500 thanks to Aero-safe Technologies and Bertie Tire Centre – two of his cooperative education placements.

Proceeds from the dinner will be shared between Marriott's cause and Community Outreach Program Erie.

Tickets are \$35 each and are available by calling the high school at 905-871-4610.

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Addressing poverty with Niagara Prosperity Initiatives

KRIS DUBE
Times Staff

The Business Education Council (BEC) needs organizations in Greater Fort Erie to help facilitate its Niagara Prosperity Initiatives.

Over recent time, the BEC has conducted three different "community conversations" locally to address poverty issues, focusing on specific neighbourhoods that need more attention than others.

There are 34 programs being funded by the Niagara Region's community services department with \$1.7 million but there is still a need for community organizations to get involved.

"On a neighbourhood basis, we want to put programs and services in place, lifting those neighbourhoods and hopefully breaking the cycle of poverty," said BEC spokesperson Rick Merritt at an informational meeting, hosted by the Bridges Community Health Care Centre

(CHC).

Merritt said the feedback given at the previous conversations focused on accessibility of education, literacy and youth programs. He also said employment issues were discussed thoroughly and hopes they can be addressed if these initiatives are a success in Greater Fort Erie.

"A lot of people are hearing about the 'new economy' and want to know how to get ready and prepare for it," said Merritt referring to the amount of jobs that have been lost in Niagara recently and what affected residents are doing to find steady employment.

Bridges health promoter Rhonda Barron says the CHC model of care is complimentary of the BEC's initiatives and that they both are driven to address similar concerns.

"We have to talk about how that model is very suited to addressing poverty just simply because of the programs we develop and deliver," said Barron.

Because access to health care was a heavily discussed topic in the BEC's conversations with area residents, she said it is a great opportunity to work together.

"We're doing lots of good work and we want to make sure the community knows about it," said Barron.

The torch will be carried, starting at Phipps and Crooks Streets at 8:56 a.m. to the Niagara Boulevard. From there, it will continue back to Jarvis Street where the mayor

Local Olympic torch relay route determined

The local community has Olympic fever for all the right reasons.

On Dec. 21st, the Olympic torch will be making its way into town with festivities to start at 8 a.m. on Jarvis Street. There will be a free pancake breakfast hosted by RBC and spectators can have their picture taken with a torch replica and meet an Olympian.

The torch will be carried, starting at Phipps and Crooks Streets at 8:56 a.m. to the Niagara Boulevard. From there, it will continue back to Jarvis Street where the mayor

Doug Martin will be on-hand to greet the symbolic torch.

It will then be carried along Central Avenue to Garrison Road, the last stop.

People who are able to take in the sights are encouraged to wear their best red and white ensemble to show their Canadian pride.



Rick Merritt, left, of the Business Education Council of Niagara and Rhonda Barron of the Bridges Community Health Centre working together to address the accessibility of health care and other programs and services in the area.

The Times office will be closed December 25th-December 28th & January 1st-January 3rd.

Please note the early deadlines for the Classified and Classified Display ads throughout the holidays for the

Times & Shopping Times.

Issue	Deadline
December 19 th	December 15 th - 3pm
December 23 rd	December 16 th - 1pm
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The FORT ERIE TIMES Saturday, December 12, 2009 13



The Three Cantors, made up of William Cliff, David Pickett and Peter Wall performing at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Wednesday as part of a benefit show for Community Outreach Program Erie and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

Three Cantors fill St. Paul's Anglican Church with sounds of the season

MATT DAY
Times Staff

It all started on a dare 12 years ago.

A group of Canadian Anglican priests brought together by their passion for music have now raised more than \$1 million over the past years for The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) with their singing ability.

"A colleague of ours heard us singing and dared us to do a show to benefit the Huron Hungry Fund. We laughed, thought 'one would come' and it turned out more than 600 people came to hear us three guys sing."

They describe their collection of songs from sacred to silly.

Either way, their performances have captivated audiences while giving back to a worthwhile cause.

On Wednesday night, The

Three Cantors visited St. Paul's Anglican Church to do a benefit show for Community Outreach Program Erie and their cause, the PWRDF.

About 150 people braved the wind and blistering cold weather and attended the show.

The group is actually made up of four members. The singers are Peter Wall, William Cliff and David Pickett. They are accompanied by maestro Angus Sinclair.

Pickett said he is continuously amazed at the amount of support the group of friends receive.

"I'm very, very happy that you can combine music, good will and faith to make a difference in the world. It's funny how you can take gifts you receive and give it back for a cause."

This isn't the first time they have performed at St. Paul's. Last year they did a benefit concert too, and Pickett said the overall

atmosphere inside the church makes it easy to come to.

He said they perform at all kinds of different venues, but whenever they are asked to sing inside an Anglican church, "it feels like home."

Rev. Mark Gladding said when it came time to choose a charity, benefitting the local outreach program seemed like the right fit.

"We've been helping them out for a long time and what they do in town is crucial," he said. "To be able to benefit them and get the community together for a night of entertainment is great."

The Three Cantors have performed more than 160 shows now and Pickett said the trio is getting used to the routine.

"We all have day jobs so we usually come to shows feeling a bit tired, but we leave feeling good. In our concerts, we often receive back a lot more than we give."

"I think it's really cool, the ability music has to find common ground for all types of people," said Pickett.

For information on the group, visit www.3cantors.com

Even local MPP Kim Craitor was on hand to watch the show filled with Christmas classics, beloved carols and the Cantors' favourite melodies.

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Knights of Columbus free throw competition recognized for participation

An annual tradition in Fort Erie has proven to be "nothing but gold" over the last few years.

On Tuesday, the Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Council no. 3320 was presented an award for having the third highest participation in its annual free throw competition within area schools.

Since the program started in 1973, more than 2.5 million young people have taken a shot at the competition.

Last year, over 3,000 Knights of Columbus councils held contests, drawing out more than 213,000 girls and boys.

Locally this year, 1,419 students participated in the free throw championship, a record setting turnout since it started almost 40 years ago.

Every competitor is awarded a certificate of participation and those who win a championship at the local and district levels receive a plaque.

In the boys category, there were two repeat winners from previous years.

Sunny Ray Hill from Crystal Beach Public School in the 11-year-old boys division and Austin Weiss from Garrison Road Public School in the 13-year-old division.

Weiss was tied at the end of the regulation 15

attempts with Daniel Gamez from Niagara Christian Community of Schools with 10 baskets.

In the overtime shootout, Weiss drained four out of five shots to narrowly prevail over Gamez.

In the girls division, overtime was also needed for the 14 year old girls with Courtney Brooks from Crystal Beach Public School outlasting Heather Thompson of Stevensville Public School.

Grand knight for the Fort Erie branch Pat Hudak said there is only one school in Greater Fort Erie who does not participate in the event, which shows this is something schools and students alike enjoy very much.

"We can't grow much bigger than that," said Hudak.

Hervin LaBrosseur, Niagara District deputy grand knight said it is remarkable for a town like Fort Erie to achieve the third highest participation, considering schools in the Greater Toronto Area are all participants.

"This is really great to see, especially going against places with triple the population," he said.



Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Council No. 3320 grand knight Pat Hudak, left, with free throw winners Darrel Harxhi and Austin Weiss and Niagara District deputy grand knight Hervin LaBrosseur.



Movie Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

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Movie The Thief Lord

A holiday week movie for mostly all ages (Rated PG, 98 mins. run time) Based on a book by Cornelia Funke, this is a family adventure about two orphaned boys \$2 admission Centennial Branch

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The Italo-Canadian Club of Fort Erie is hosting a Christmas Dinner and Dance

Friday, December 18
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the party will go right until 11:30 p.m.
A hot buffet dinner will be served at 8:30 p.m.
There will be Latin line-dancing, plenty of door prizes and a fun dance contest with special guest Loachanno.
Before, during and post meal partying will take place with the hot Latin beats: Cha Cha, Salsa, Rumba, Samba, Swing, Mambo, Merengue, Bolero, Bachata and Cumbia; plus Tango, Polka, Waltz, Fox Trot, Quickstep and Tarantella for a well-rounded dance event.
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PUBLICATION DATE:

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The Times

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KICKING OFF SOCCER SEASON

The 2009-10 Greater Fort Erie Youth Soccer Club's new executive board has started getting things ready for the upcoming season. Back row from left are registrar John Sansano, vice-president Jürgen Schulz and treasurer Julie Holmes. Front row from left are secretary David Macrotta and president Dean Demizio. Registration dates are Jan. 23, Jan. 30 and Feb. 13.

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The Times

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- ◀ Route: 1031 - Fort Erie - 62 Papers (Archange, Waterloo, Forsythe, Niag. Blvd.)
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- ◀ Route: 2005 - Ridgeway - 43 Papers (Nigh, Gorham)
- ◀ Route: 3003S - Stevensville - 25 Papers (Carver Street)
- ◀ Route: 4001B - Ridgeway - 43 Papers (Prospect Pt., Yacht Harbour)

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Lack of players still big issue in Meteors' locker room

MATT DAY
Times Staff

When the Meteors headed to the locker room after their disappointing 6-0 loss to the Welland Canadians last Saturday, head coach Yvan Charrois was at a loss for words.

The team, desperately needing the win to stay ahead of Welland in the Golden Horseshoe Division standings, were handed yet another blowout loss in a season filled with many of them.

"The effort wasn't there tonight. We didn't show up to play and it is what it is."

Fort Erie hadn't played a game for a week and the rust clearly showed.

"You never want to get shut out in your own rink. We had lackadaisical practices all week, a bunch of guys were missing and played with no effort. The whole week sucked."

Frustrated with the loss, Charrois tried to remain positive by remaining focused on the 24 games still to come.

"A lot is at stake whether you lose 3-2 in overtime or 10-0. At the end of the day, we have eight teams in the conference and any team can beat any other team... as we have seen before. We'll be getting back at it during practice and hopefully the guys will show up to play in our next game."

A key factor in the Meteors' effort has been the lack of depth the team has.

Charrois said for a good portion of the year the team has been playing with only four defencemen and limited forwards which doesn't allow for any healthy competition.

"When you don't have guys sitting in the stands itching to play it hurts the team. The guys start feeling comfortable knowing they will play every night and might not put as much work into their position if they knew a guy was right at their backs trying to earn a spot."

Veteran player Mike Baxter said the short bench coupled with all of the penalties the Meteors have been taking lately are serving as a recipe for poor performances.

"The short bench is getting to us. It's hard to feel like a team when you don't have everybody out there," he said. "We are a hard working team when everyone is together though."

It wasn't all bad news for the Meteors. Despite being shut out, the youngsters on the team dialed up decent scoring chances throughout the night and newly acquired backup goaltender Colton Sauer played well for the Meteors in the third period with the game out of reach.

One thing is certain, the Meteors can't continue dropping all their games against the league's bottom four teams if they want to better position themselves come playoff time.

They'll look to get back on the winning track tonight when they take on the Thorold Blackhawks at the Leisureplex. Game time is set for 7:45 p.m.



Mike Baxter tries to work around a Welland defender in last Saturday's 6-0 home loss to the Canadians. The Meteors failed to pull ahead of Welland in the standings and currently sit in seventh in the Golden Horseshoe Division.



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Coming Events

SENICA CASINO Bus Trip, Wed., Dec. 30, \$30, get \$20, 500 foot race, 8:30 a.m. 9:00 p.m. Leave Senica 8:00 p.m. Reserve now. Gerry 905/849-1010.

SENIORS 50+ - ask Barb or Linda for the gift that lasts all year long - a \$25.00 membership to the Seniors Center. Enjoy coffee with your friends or team competitor. Call 905/871-7761 for more information.



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Birthday greetings



Happy 1st Birthday to our "Big Guy"
James Robert "Jr." Collision
December 13/09
We Love you,
Mommy, Daddy, Erin & all your Family

Birthday greetings



Happy Sweet 16th
Victoria
Love, Mommy, Daddy and Nana

Announcements

Birthday greetings

BOYER, Alberta - at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Sunday November 29, 2009. Alberta Boyer, beloved mother of Jackie. Predeceased by brothers Marc and Edward, and sisters, Cleonie and Bernice. Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. George's Catholic Church on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment took place in Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to THE WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME.

COMEAU, Joseph F. - At Douglas Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, December 9, 2009. Joseph F. Comeau, best friend and partner of Cheryl, dear father of Ann, Marguerite, Joyce, Jo, brother of Marc, Louis, Al and Joseph. No formal service or visitation. Cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Donations to a charity of ones choice would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES (905) 894-0120.

FRETZ, Lillian - at the Greater Niagara General Memorial Hospital on Monday December 7, 2009. Lillian Fretz, wife of the late Edward Fretz, mother of the late Wayne (Helen) and Don (Cathy) Mure, loved grandmother of Cheryl, Carlyle, Cindy, David and Jerry Fretz. Cherished great grandmother of Joshua, Nelson, Daniel, Delyne, Kiana and Kellann. Funeral service and visitation will be held at THE WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME on Thursday morning at eleven o'clock. Interment took place in Bertie church Cemetery. Memorial donations were directed to The Parkinson Foundation.

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land
We'll know the meaning of our tears
And then another day we'll understand

Memorial Vase \$14
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Anniversaries



Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary
Jackie & Dieter Gonnissen
Cheers!
Love, from The Gang

Remember?

The sights... the smells... the sounds. It's the one time of year when just one whiff of a Christmas tree instantly brings us back to our childhood—Dad, trying to untangle the lights, Mom, cooking up a storm.

We know this because we have families, as well. We wish your family a happy holiday season.



Larry Williams
722 Ridge Rd N • Ridgeway
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www.williamsfuneralhome.ca



Happy Retirement Barb
December 11
Happy 19th Birthday Shawn
December 12
Love Pat (Dad)

Show everyone your appreciation.
Call 1-866-541-6757 and leave a Thank You Note on this page.

Deaths

LESLIE, Roy Gordon - Suddenly at Greater Niagara General Hospital, Roy Gordon Leslie passed away Tuesday, December 8th, 2009 at age 82. Loving husband of Dorothy, and father of Judy, Leslie, Johnny, Leslie, Patricia Palermo and Jim Leslie. Roy will be missed by many of his grandchildren and his family in the Maritimes. Roy was one of a kind and loved by many. He will be buried in the ground. **FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. In keeping with Roy's wishes cremation has taken place.

PUTMAN, Margaret - At Hospice Niagara on Tuesday, December 8, 2009. Margaret Putman beloved wife of Lenford R. Putman, dear mother of Wendy, Sandra, Gary and Barry, sister of Michael Bay of Florida. Margaret will be remembered with a memorial service. A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, December 13 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses, 46 Westside Rd, Port Colborne at 4:00 p.m. Arrangements entrusted to NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES Ridgeway (905)894-0120.

SAIEVA, Francesco (Frank) - Suddenly on December 4th, 2009 loving husband of Nancy (Barbara) of Wheatfield N.Y., Nancy Schiavone of Fort Erie and Massimo Saieva of Fort Erie. Loving grandfather of Joe Schiavone, Frank Saieva, Steve Saieva, Frank Schiavone, Melissa Saieva, Linda Schiavone and Sofia Saieva. He was survived by his sister, Leonards Di More. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family received friends on Sunday from 2-4 & 7-9. Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Vigil Prayer was said in the Funeral Home on Sunday afternoon at 2:30. Entombment to followed in Pleasantview Memorial Gardens, Fort Erie.



Announcements

In memoriam

FLORA PIORKOWSKI
In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother, who passed away December 12, 1991.

May the winds of love blow gently And whisper so you can hear. We will always love and miss you And we will always be here. We hold you close within our hearts And there you shall remain. To walk with us throughout our life Until we meet again.

Her kind, gentle spirit is sadly missed, yet often remembered with love by Cathy, Oscar and Jennifer Ettinger.



HUBERT L. CHARLTON

12/14/24/12/99

In loving memory of a Special Husband and Dad and Papa. Sadly missed & forever in our thoughts by: Betty, Mark, Michael, Chris, Daniel, David Charlton, Julie & Anna, Amanda, Jillian, Matthew Deschamps.



in our hearts your memory lingers, Sweetly tender, fond and true, There is not a day, dear mother, That we do not think of you.

Forever missed, Verna, Wayne and family.

We are sad within our memory, Lonely are our thoughts today. For the one loved so dearly, Has forever been called away.

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In memoriam

In loving memory of our precious Mom **OLIVINE MERLE HILL**, who left us two years ago, Dec. 13th, 2007

If roses grow in Heaven Lord
Please pick a bunch for me.
Place them in my Mother's arms
And tell her they're from me.
Tell her I love her, tell her I miss her,
And when she turns to smile,
Place a kiss upon her cheek
And hold her for while.
Because remembering her is easy
I do it every day.
But there is one echo in my heart,
The will never go away.
Forever lost and missed,
daughter Marion Henry and grandchildren.

In memoriam

WALTER "BABE" DOUGLAS
In loving memory of our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed away December 16, 2008

God took him home, it was His will,
But in my heart I love him still;
His memory is as dear today
As in the hour he passed away.
Love, Jean



The blow was great, the shock severe,
We little thought the end was near,
And only now when I look back
Can I see the path we were on.
More each day we miss you, father,
Friends may think the wound is healed,
But they little know the sorrow
That lies within our hearts concealed.
Jim, Jake, Jeff, Barry and their families.

General A800
Employment

In memoriam

LaFranca - In memory of Frank who died December 13, 2008. You were a good man for many years. And - since that time - I have only wished you were still here. You were a husband, father and grandfather. You were more, You are the man that I will always adore, so in your new life above - please know this dear, I will always be there for you, times, that you were here... Love forever, Anna and Family.



Would you like to place an
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Our obituary section is free,
Call 1-866-541-6787



Reflection

The Holidays allow each of us to reflect on the importance of friends and family.

To the many within our community that have entrusted us with funeral services, we sincerely thank you.

To everyone who has experienced a loss, it is our hope that during this holiday season you will find hope and strength.

Respectfully,
Darren Flagg

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Brick

To people who don't have all the people who have any Christmas cheer have resorted to crime to and are miserable even put food on the table this though they have no reason Christmas or to put presents under the tree for your children. There are jobs out

Bouquet

To the municipal and there and you don't need to regional councils for moving forward with the peaceful lives because you Canadian Motor Speedway would rather steal that project. There are still work.

Brick

To the person who continually throws their chocolate milk containers out of

their car window onto Window Point Road. I'm sure that the place where you are going to will have a garbage can. Can you please stop throwing your garbage out of the window and put it in the garbage can when you get to where you are going? I think I

for scaling down its plans speak on behalf of everyone for the Crystal Beach Development project, your ways would be greatly appreciated.

Bouquet

To everyone who who has donated to local charities buildings to be built.

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